

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Organization

Another reorganization is being planned in the Ministry of Health. A meeting about this was held in the Soviet Control Commission (SCC) restricted area in Berlin-Karlshorst in August 1952. Arkhangelski (fnu) and three other (unknown) Russians attended for the Soviet side and Gottfried Drummer (Planning), Dieter Baumann (Medicaments), Alfred Mitloehner (Planning) and Paul Eggert (Interpreter) for the German side. The aim of the reorganizations will be to bring the German structure even closer into line with the Russian pattern. Two important changes foreseen are:

- a. Organization of a Main Department for Medicaments and Medical Equipment. Sooner or later, this would become an independent State Secretariat.
- b. Organization of a Main Section for "Liaison with the German Red Cross" (Hauptreferat Verbindung zum DRK). This would be something of a cover name, as the section would actually direct the DRK.

Preliminary work for the introduction of these changes is still in progress.

2. The East German Red Cross (DRK)

- a. The three purposes served by the DRK are as follows:

1) Political

The DRK will be developed to a party-line group organization. By using the good name of the DRK, it is hoped to attract into a group organization, many people who could not otherwise be reached.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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2) Paramilitary

There is the closest cooperation and coordination between the DRK and the National Army (KVP). In the case of "special need" the resources of the DRK could be used to supplement the medical and hygienic facilities of the peoples' police.

3) Economic

- (a) With the help of the DRK, it is hoped to eliminate all private transport of patients.
- (b) The setting up of accident centers (Unfallstellen) will also strike another blow at doctors with private practices.
- (c) The building of a voluntary corps in the DRK will help to cut social insurance costs.

b. Financial Plans, 1953

The 1953 plans picture on one side an income of 17,000,000 DM East through taking over all patients' transport and on the other side an expenditure of 45,000,000 DM East for stores. The stores are intended to stock each Bezirk with a supply of medical outfits, bandages, sterilizers, medical tents and equipment for first aid rooms (San-Stuben). In addition, part of the money is earmarked also for two DRK accident centers in each Kreis and for the purchase of uniforms. DRK uniforms are to be olive green.

c. Other Plans

- 1) The DRK plans to take over the whole coastal lifesaving service from the peoples' sea police in 1953. (Kuestenrettungsdienst-Seenotdienst von der VP-See).
- 2) The Material Planning Section of the Ministry of Health originally planned for 750 private vehicles for 1953, 400 for the Ministry and 350 for the DRK. In January 1953, however, it looked as if only some 420 would be available, all for the DRK.
- 3) It is planned to build up an organization of 70,000 assistants (Gesundheitsbelfern) in 1953. These will come only partly from new recruitment; a large number will be taken from assistants in the Health Trade Union, part of the Free German Trade Union Association (FDGB).

3. Supplies

a. 1952 was a year of extraordinary difficulties. This was caused quite simply by the fact that too many parties were clamoring for the limited supply of goods. The following all wished to draw from the available supplies (medicaments, medical and dental apparatus and supplies of all kinds):

- 1) Public health authorities and the general population.
- 2) National Army (KVP)
- 3) Peoples' Police (VP)

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- 4) East German Red Cross (DRK)
- 5) Service for Germany (Dienst fuer Deutschland - DfD)
- 6) Foreign trade authorities
- 7) State Secretariat for Administration of the National(State) Reserve.
- 8) Office for Reparations; Soviet forces in East Germany.

The demands of No. 8 above were small and No. 7 was not yet important: even so, there was much confusion because of the habits of various organizations mentioned above of not working through the proper channels. Thus the Ministry of Health should have had 48 heavy X-ray apparatuses (type Kostix-F) in 1952 but only received one or two.

- b. The result of all this was to precipitate a whole series of meetings, with Otto Grotewohl, with the State Planning Commission, and with the National Army. It was finally decided:

- 1) To organize a proper National Reserve.
- 2) To create a "Coordinating Office for Questions of Supply in the Field of Public Health" (Koordinierungsstelle fuer Fragen der Materialversorgung im Gesundheitswesen), organized at first by the State Administration for Material Procurement but later probably by the Ministry of the Interior. All distribution of material will then (in theory, at least), be coordinated by this office.
- 3) To coordinate the distribution of X-ray apparatus and vehicles at once, even before the above office is functioning.

4. Reserves

- a. The National Reserve (or State Reserve, -Staatsreserve)¹

In about October 1952, after Luitpold Steidle, Minister of Health, had had to tell Otto Grotewohl that there was almost no National Reserve, the Ministry of Health was ordered by Grotewohl at once to draw up plans to build such a reserve. The plans were sent as secret documents to Bruno Leuschner, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, on 25 November 1952. The present (January 1953) situation is as follows:

- 1) Medical Apparatus (in the broadest sense)
 - (a) 25,000,000 DM East are allocated for 1953. The provision of 20,000 beds for in-patients is foreseen, with all relevant equipment, that is, complete hospital installations for a total of 20,000 patients. Dr. Friedrich Mehlmann was charged with this planning, which extends from the thermometers to the X-ray apparatus needed. Dr. Mehlmann recognized four types in his plans:
 - Hospital, Class 1: Up to 150 beds.
 - Hospital, Class 2: Up to 300 beds.
 - Hospital, Class 3: Up to 600 beds.
 - Hospital, Class 4: Up to 1,000 beds.

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- (b) Another 25,000,000 DM East have been voted for this reserve for 1954.
- (c) The reserve will be located, it is believed, in Land Saxony or Land Thuringia.

2) Medicaments

- (a) The present National Reserve is almost nil, as Luitpold Steidle, Minister, had to admit to Grotewohl in late 1952. It now, (January 1953), contains about 120 milliard units penicillin, streptomycin, and some insulin.
- (b) For 1953, 25,000,000 DM East are allocated. These are for insulin, sulphonamides, antibiotics, and other medicines and raw materials. Disinfectants, sera, vaccines, and anti-pest preparations will also be stored.

b. The Operational Reserve

15,000,000 DM East have been voted for 1953 for X-ray contrast media, antibiotics, insulin and sulphonamides particularly. 2,500,000 of the 15,000,000 are for Western products. Storage will be in the sub-depots of the DEZ Pharmazie und Krankenhausbedarf. The reserve is to be built up by 30 June 1953.

5. The Russians and Satellites in East Germany

- a. Demands from the Russians (service or civilian) for East German medical and pharmaceutical supplies are, with two minor exceptions, very rare and limited to odd items. In the last months, for example, the only cases known in the Ministry were demands for 1 diathermy apparatus, 1 spirometer and 1 "Baby-Messgeraet". These were for the Russian hospital in Berlin-Karlshorst.
- b. One of the exceptions is the Russian Polyclinic in Berlin-Weissensee. This serves the dependents of members of the Russian and satellite diplomatic corps and also the Russians of SAG headquarters and USIG, located Berlin-Weissensee, Berliner Allee 107). This polyclinic is supplied by the East German Ministry of Health. A considerable amount in West Marks is also at the disposal of this polyclinic and purchases are made in the West as necessary.
- c. The second exception is the East German Government Hospital in the Scharnhorststrasse, Berlin N4. Staffs of the peoples' democracy missions are treated here. Sometimes Russians are also treated here, but only as out-patients; they are never leading Russians, who all go to the Berlin-Karlshorst Russian hospital. The government hospital is supplied by the Ministry of Health in the usual way.

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Annex I

Extract from a letter dated 29 October 1952, from Secretary of State Jenny Matern, Ministry of Health, to Bruno Leuschner, chairman of the State Planning Commission:

"Building of a National Reserve of medicinals and medical supplies".

.....In connection with the absolute necessity of building such a reserve, the following have already been placed at the disposal of the administration of the National Reserve, having been taken from the Ministry of Health's quotas for 1953:

- a. Bandaging material - about 2,000,000 DM East worth (normally, 6 weeks supply).
- b. Surgical suture material to the value of 230,000 DME (normally, about 3 months supply).
- c. All-glass syringes and canulae to the value of 411,000 DME (preliminary supplies for 40,000 beds).
- d. 4,000,000 DM East worth of fever thermometers.

I have just been told, however, by a representative of the State Secretariat for the Administration of the National Reserve, that only the bandaging material will be taken over. No money is available for the remainder....."

The rest of the letter asks the State Planning Commission to look into this and see that the money is somehow made available.

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Annex IIMeetings

- a. The meeting, in about October 1952, at which it was decided to build a National Reserve, was attended by:
- | | |
|---|--|
| Otto Grotewohl | Minister-President, Chairman. |
| Luitpold Steidle | Minister of Health. |
| Jenny Matern | Secretary of State, Ministry of Health. |
| Alfred Binz | State Administration for Material Procurement. |
| Bruno Leuschner | Chairman, State Planning Commission. |
| Representative from the State wholesale organization. | |
- b. Bruno Leuschner sent the plans for the reserve (paragraph 4a, of report) to Dr. Friedrich, Health Section, State Planning Commission. He called a further meeting in December 1952, of:
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Dr. Friedrich ³ | State Planning Commission - public health matters. |
| Dieter Baumann | Ministry of Health, H5 (Medicaments) |
| Gottfried Drummer | Ministry of Health, Planning |
| Stelzer (fnu) | DHZ Pharmazie. |
- c. Meeting of 2 January 1953. This was called to try and get the various agencies drawing medical supplies to coordinate their demands. Present were the following:
- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Prof. Dr. Med Karl Walther | National Army (KVP) |
| Lt. Kiesling (fnu) | National Army (KVP) |
| Dr. Schulz, representing | |
| Dr. Rubens (fnu) | People's Police |
| Dr. Werner Ludwig | DRK |
| Dr. Friedrich Mehlmann | DRK |
| Apotheker Joedicke (fnu) | DFD |
| Jenny Matern | Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health. |
| Alfred Mitloehner | Planning, Ministry of Health. |
- d. A further meeting on the same subject as that in (c) above, was held in mid-January 1953. Present were the following:
- | | |
|---|---|
| Kurt Opitz | State Planning Commission |
| Alfred Mitloehner | Planning, Ministry of Health |
| Helmut Guenther, representing Dr. Friedrich | State Planning Commission |
| Dr. Friedrich Mehlmann | DRK |
| Frau Eppinger | DRK |
| Alfred Binz | State Administration for Materials Procurement. |

Comments:

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1. This may be thought of as a strategic reserve. Withdrawals may only be made on the authority of the Council of Ministers.
2. This may be thought of as a tactical reserve. The State Administration for Material Procurement can authorize withdrawals.
3. The Dr. Friedrich who is responsible for Public Health in the State Planning Commission was formerly the works doctor at the "Walter Ulbricht" Chemical Works, Leuna. He is a "meritorious people's doctor".

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